In the Claims

1-19 (canceled).

20 (currently amended). A method for suppressing or inhibiting allergen-specific IgE production, said method comprising administering an effective amount of interferon tau~~, or a biologically active fragment of said interferon tau~~, to a person or animal in need of suppression or inhibition of allergen-specific IgE production, wherein said suppression or inhibition of IgE production occurs through inhibition of B-cell IgE secretion or inhibition of B-cell proliferation, and wherein said interferon tau is administered by a route selected from the group consisting of oral administration, parenteral administration, subcutaneous administration and intravenous administration.

21-22 (canceled).

23 (previously presented). The method according to claim 20, wherein said person or animal is afflicted with, or predisposed to, an IgE-related condition, wherein said condition is an allergic condition.

24 (previously presented). The method according to claim 23, wherein said allergic condition is selected from the group consisting of allergic rhinitis, atopic dermatitis, bronchial asthma and food allergy.

25 (previously presented). The method according to claim 20, wherein said interferon tau is administered *in vitro*.

26 (previously presented). The method according to claim 20, wherein said interferon tau is formulated in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

27 (previously presented). The method according to claim 20, wherein said interferon tau is a mammalian interferon tau.

28 (currently amended). A method for suppressing or inhibiting proliferation of an IgE-producing cell, said method comprising administering an effective amount of interferon tau~~, or a biologically active fragment of said interferau tau~~, to a person or animal in need of suppressing or inhibiting proliferation of IgE-producing cells, wherein said interferon tau is administered by a route selected from the group consisting of oral administration, parenteral administration, subcutaneous administration and intravenous administration.

29 (canceled).

30 (previously presented). The method according to claim 28, wherein said person or animal is afflicted with, or predisposed to, an IgE-related condition, wherein said condition is an allergic condition.

31 (previously presented). The method according to claim 30, wherein said allergic condition is selected from the group consisting of allergic rhinitis, atopic dermatitis, bronchial asthma and food allergy.

32 (previously presented). The method according to claim 28, wherein said interferon tau is administered *in vitro*.

33 (previously presented). The method according to claim 28, wherein said interferon tau is formulated in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

34 (previously presented). The method according to claim 28, wherein said interferon tau is a mammalian interferon tau.

35 (currently amended). A method for suppressing or inhibiting allergen-specific IgE production, said method comprising identifying a person or animal in need of suppression or inhibition of allergen-specific IgE production and administering an effective amount of interferon tau~~, or a biologically active fragment of said interferon tau~~, to said person or animal, wherein said interferon tau is administered by a route selected from the group consisting of oral administration, parenteral administration, subcutaneous administration and intravenous administration.

36 (canceled).

37 (previously presented). The method according to claim 35, wherein said interferon tau is formulated in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

38 (previously presented). The method according to claim 35, wherein said interferon tau is a mammalian interferon tau.